

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 14669

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, UR, US, XA

SUBJECT: SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON AFRICA

SUMMARY: "STATEMENT OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT" ON DEVELOPMENTS
IN AFRICA CARRIED IN PRAVDA, JUNE 23 REVEALS NO NEW
MATERIAL. IT AMOUNTS TO LONG, COMPREHENSIVE PRESEN-
TATION OF SOVIET VIEWS OF RECENT EVENTS - PARTICULARLY
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IN SHABA PROVINCE - AND PRESENT SITUATION. DURING
LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICER ON JUNE 23,
SOVIET MFA OFFICIAL AND SEVERAL EXPERTS FROM AFRICA
INSTITUTE EXPLAINED THAT STAEMENT WAS TRIGGERED BY
SPECIFIC CHARGES OF SOVIET AND CUBAN RESPONSIBILITY
FOR SHABA EVENTS MADE BY SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS.
THE SOVIETS ALSO HIT HARD AT PAN-AFRICAN FORCE IDEA.

THEY WERE EXTREMELY TOUGH, EVEN BELLIGERENT, ON MOSCOW'S DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE CURRENT POLICIES IN AFRICA. BY THEIR VEHEMENT ATTACK ON U.S. "LINKAGE" BETWEEN AFRICA POLICY DIFFERENCES AND SALT, HOWEVER, THEY INDICATED THAT THIS FACTOR LOOMED LARGE IN THEIR MINDS. THEY PROVIDED NO HOPE FOR POSSIBLE SOVIET COOPERATION WITH THE WEST ON SUCH PROBLEMS AS NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA. END SUMMARY.

(END CONFIDENTIAL, BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED)

1. SINCE DEPT HAS TEXT OF STATEMENT OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT ONLY BRIEF SUMMARY WILL BE PROVIDED. BASIC THEMES OF STATEMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

--GROWTH OF TENSION IN AFRICA IS RESULT OF "AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS OF GROUP OF LEADING COUNTRIES OF NATO LED BY THE U.S." AND CAN BE TRACED TO LONG-STANDING REFUSAL OF FORCES OF "IMPERIALISM, RACISM, AND REACTION" TO RECONCILE THEMSELVES WITH THE POSITIVE CHANGES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED ON THE CONTINENT.

--"NATO INTERVENTION" IN ZAIRE USED "SOVIET-CUBAN THREAT" AS A PRETEXT, BUT REAL AIM WAS DEVELOPMENT OF POSITIONS FROM WHICH PRESSURE COULD BE APPLIED ON "PATRIOTIC FORCES" OF RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA AND
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ON FRONT LINE STATES TO OBTAIN A FAVORABLE SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN QUESTIONS.

--THERE ARE NO GROUNDS WHATSOEVER FOR ASSERTION THAT SOVIET AND CUBAN ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA AND TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS CREATES THREAT TO PEACE AND STABILITY AND UNDERMINES PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE. THERE IS A PRINCIPLED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JUSTIFIED COOPERATION OF SOCIALIST STATES WITH AFRICAN STATES AND PEOPLES AND WESTERN MILITARY INTERFERENCE IN AFRICAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. DETENTE DOES NOT MEAN AN "ARTIFICIAL RESTRAINT" ON THE PROCESS OF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT NOR IS IT A LICENSE FOR "UNPOPULAR, ROTTEN, AND VENAL REGIMES." IT PROVIDES NO RIGHT FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE STRUGGLE OF PEOPLE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION AND SOCIAL PROGRESS.

--THE PEKING LEADERSHIP HAS ALLIED ITSELF WITH NATO AND SOUTH AFRICA IN INCREASING TENSION IN AFRICA. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY EVIDENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE NATO INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE.

--THE EFFORTS OF FORMER COLONIALISTS TO INTERVENE
MILITARILY IN AFRICA ARE SEEN AS A REAL DANGER BY
MANY AFRICAN LEADERS.

--THE SOVIET POSITION ON AFRICA HAS BEEN AND IS
"CLEAR AND CONSISTENT." SEEKING NO SPECIAL
ADVANTAGE FOR ITSELF, THE SOVIET UNION IS FOR
NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, SOCIAL PROGRESS, AND
DEMOCRACY AND OPPOSES THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL
INTERFERENCE OF IMPERIALISM IN AFRICAN INTERNAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 14669

AFFAIRS. "ALL RESPONSIBILITY" FOR "POSSIBLE
CONSEQUENCES" OF THE INCREASED TENSION IN AFRICA
LIES ON THE "AGGRESSIVE CIRCLES" OF THE WEST.

(END UNCLASSIFIED, BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL)

2. EMBOFF AND VISITING DEPOFF HAD TWO-
HOUR DISCUSSION ON JUNE 23 WITH AFRICA INSTITUTE
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OFFICIALS YE.A. TARABRIN (CHIEF AFRICAN COUNTRIES
DEPT) AND V. KOPIN (CHIEF ARAB COUNTRIES DEPT).
ON SAME DAY EMBOFF HAD EQUALLY LENGTHY LUNCHEON
CONVERSATION WITH G.A. ZAYTSEV, COUNSELOR, USA
DEPT (US THIRD WORLD POLICY), MFA, AND M.L. VISH-
NEVSKIY OF AFRICA INSTITUTE (US AFRICA POLICY).
FOR CONVENIENCE, VIEWS OF SOVIETS - WHO IN ANY
CASE DID NOT GREATLY DIFFER IN THEIR OPINIONS -
ARE REPORTED COLLECTIVELY. THE MOOD OF ALL
OF THESE SOVIET INTERLOCUTORS WAS ONE OF DEFIANT
BELLIGERENCE. THEY ADAMANTLY REFUSED TO ACCEPT
THE SLIGHTEST SHRED OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE CURRENT US-SOVIET IMBROGLIO
OVER AFRICA. THEY PROVIDED ENDLESS JUSTIFICATION
FOR THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS
AND CUBAN COMBAT UNITS IN ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA.
THEY REPEATEDLY REFERRED TO SOVIET RESTRAIN WITH
REGARD TO THE PRESENCE OF 13,000 U.S. "MILITARY
PERSONNEL" IN IRAN, AND THEY WENT ON AT GREAT LENGTH
ABOUT THE FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE IN AFRICA. IN
CONTRAST TO THE STATEMENT OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT,
THEY EXPRESSED DEEP AND REPEATED CONCERN OVER U.S.
LINKAGE BETWEEN SOVIET BEHAVIOR IN AFRICA (AND
SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY) AND "REAL" NEGOTIATIONS
ON SALT. THEY PROFESSED TO SEE LINKAGE AS A FORM
OF AMERICAN ULTIMATUM TO THE SOVIET UNION TO
CHANGE ITS AFRICAN POLICY. THEY ADAMANTLY REJECTED
THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME SORT OF COOPERATION WITH
THE WEST IN REACHING AN ACCEPTABLE, PEACEFUL
SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN PROBLEM,
ALTHOUGH THEY DID ADD THAT THEY WOULD NOT "OPPOSE"
SUCH WESTERN EFFORTS.

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3. ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHY THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP
FELT IT NECESSARY TO FOLLOW THE JUNE 17 PRAVDA
EDITORIAL WITH A SEPARATE SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATE-
MENT ON AFRICA, MFA COUNSELOR ZAYTSEV RESPONDED

WITH A VICIOUS ATTACK ON THE RECENT "ANTI-SOVIET, ANTI-CUBAN" ACCUSATIONS CONCERNING SHABA MADE BY PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER BRZEZINSKI, THE SECRETARY, AND THE PRESIDENT. THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, FELT IT NECESSARY TO PROVIDE AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO SUCH OFFICIAL ACCUSATIONS. SINCE THERE WAS GENUINE CONCERN OVER RECENT WESTERN ACTIONS NOT ONLY IN THE SOVIET UNION, BUT IN AFRICA, IT WAS FELT THAT AN OVERALL RESTATEMENT OF THE SOVIET AFRICA VIEWS WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL AT THIS TIME.

4. COMMENT: SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATEMENT CONTAINS NO NEW MATERIAL. WHAT IS NEW, OF COURSE, IS ESCALATION OF SUCH VERBIAGE TO LEVEL OF OFFICIAL STATE POLICY. PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY IN THAT REGARD IS AGGRESSIVE TONE OF SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD RECENT WESTERN - ESPECIALLY U.S. - ACTIONS. SUCH AN EXPRESSION OF OFFICIAL OPPOSITION TO WESTERN EFFORTS DOES NOT BODE WELL FOR ANY AMELIORATION OF CURRENT U.S. - SOVIET TENSION OVER AFRICA. THIS SAME BELIGERENT ATTITUDE WAS EXPRESSED EVEN MORE STRONGLY BY THE SOVIETS WITH WHOM EMBOFF SPOKE ON JUNE 23. WE NOTE ALSO LENGTHY DEFENSE OF COMPATIBILITY BETWEEN DETENTE AND SUPPORT BY "SOCIALIST STATES" OF NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE. IF ANYONE NEEDED A REMINDER OF THIS BASIC SOVIET ATTITUDE, IT IS PROVIDED HERE. TOON

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